

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 EUR-12 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 CIAE-00

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R 051501Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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ZE.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: SASO/BPC TRIAL RESUMES

REF: PRETORIA 2296

/ TRIAL OF NINE MEMBERS OF SASO/BPC ON CHARGES UNDER
TERRORISM ACT RESUMED IN PRETORIA SUPREME COURT
AUGUST 4. DEFENDANTS APPEARING UNDER NEW INDICTMENT
DELIVERED FOLLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF ORIGINAL INDICTMENT
IN LATE JUNE (REFTEL). TRIAL OF REMAINING TWO PERSONS
STILL CHARGED WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER COMPLETION OF
CURRENT PROCEEDINGS.

2. WHEN HEARING OPENED, DEFENSE COUNSELS ASKED FOR
TWO-WEEK POSTPONEMENT TO ENABLE THEM TO STUDY INDICT-
MENT PARTICULARS SUPPLIED BY PROSECUTION TWO DAYS
EARLIER. PRESIDING JUDGE JUSTICE BOSHOFF GRANTED
POSTPONEMENT ONLY UNTIL AUGUST 6, SAYING HE FELT
DEFENSE ENGAGING IN UNNECESSARY DELAYS.

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3. COMMENTS: DEFENSE LAWYERS EXPRESSED "SHOCK" OVER

DENIAL OF WHAT THEY FELT WAS REASONABLE REQUEST. THEY
TOLD EMBOFF THEY ARE "SURPRISED AND DISTURBED" ABOUT
APPARENT REVERSAL OF JUDGE'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DEFENSE.
DURING EARLIER PROCEEDINGS JUDGE HAD APPEARED
SYMPATHETIC TOWARD PROBLEMS OF DEFENSE TEAM, BUT
TONE AND CONTENT OF JUDGE'S COMMENTS ON THIS OCCASION
FAR FROM SYMPATHETIC.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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